




data

state fact sheets: Colorado

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Data updated March 31, 2005

Population, Income, Education, and Employment

Population

	Rural *	Urban *	Total
Year			
1980	451,760	2,437,975	2,889,735
1990	474,931	2,819,463	3,294,394
2000	624,576	3,676,685	4,301,261
2003 (latest estimates)	647,768	3,902,920	4,550,688

More information on Colorado population

- [County-level Population Data](#)
- [Rural Population and Migration Briefing Room](#)
- Contact [John Cromartie](#), 202-694-5421.

Income

	Rural *	Urban *	Total
Per-capita income (2002 dollars)			
2001	27,273	36,483	35,164
2002	26,647	34,903	33,723
Percent change	-2.3	-4.3	-4.1

Earnings per job (2002 dollars)

	Rural *	Urban *	Total
2001	28,800	45,033	42,743
2002	28,140	43,533	41,337
Percent change	-2.3	-3.3	-3.3

Poverty rate (percent)

	Rural *	Urban *	Total
1979	13.9	9.4	10.1
1989	16.0	11.0	11.7
1999	12.3	8.8	9.3
2002 (latest model-based estimates)	12.8	9.0	9.5

More information on Colorado poverty rates

- [County-level Poverty Data](#)
- [Rural Income, Poverty, and Welfare Briefing Room](#)
- See important notes about [decennial and model-based intercensal poverty estimates](#)
- Contact [Dean Jolliffe](#), 202-694-5430

Education (Persons 25 and older)

	Rural *	Urban *	Total
Percent not completing high school			



1980	28.5	20.0	21.4
1990	21.4	14.6	15.6
2000	16.5	12.5	13.1
Percent completing high school only			
1980	36.0	34.4	34.6
1990	31.1	25.7	26.5
2000	27.8	22.4	23.2
Percent completing some college			
1980	18.7	21.6	21.1
1990	27.6	31.5	31.0
2000	30.7	31.1	31.0
Percent completing college			
1980	17.2	24.0	23.0
1990	19.8	28.2	27.0
2000	25.0	34.0	32.7
More information on Colorado education			
• County-level Education Data			
• Rural Labor and Education Briefing Room			
•Contact Robert Gibbs , 202-694-5423			

Employment

	Rural *	Urban *	Total
Total number of jobs			
2001	417,744	2,544,297	2,962,041
2002	420,442	2,527,034	2,947,476
Unemployment rate (percent)			
2002	4.6	5.9	5.7
2003	5.0	6.2	6.0
More information on Colorado unemployment rates			
• County-level Unemployment and Median Household Income Data			
• Rural Labor and Education Briefing Room			
•Contact Lorin Kusmin , 202-694-5429			
Percent employment change			
2000-2001	0.5	0.1	0.2
2001-2002	4.0	-0.2	0.3
2002-2003	2.6	1.1	1.3
Percent of 2002 employment in farm and farm-related jobs			
Total	20.5	12.0	13.2
Production	6.1	0.7	1.5
Farm inputs	0.3	0.1	0.1
Processing & marketing	1.5	0.9	0.9
Wholesale & retail trade	11.9	9.9	10.1
More information on farm employment			
• Farm and Farm-Related Employment data			
•Contact Alex Majchrowicz , 202-694-5355			

* Urban and rural (metro and nonmetro) definitions are based on the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) June 2003 classification. See [Measuring Rurality: New Definitions in 2003](#) for more information.

More information on socioeconomic conditions

- [Rural Emphasis Page](#)
- Contact [Tim Parker](#), 202-694-5435.

Farm Characteristics

1992, 1997 and 2002 Census of Agriculture

	1992	1997	2002
Total land area (million acres)	66.39	66.39	66.38
Total farmland (million acres)	33.98	32.35	31.09
Percent of total land area	51.2	48.7	46.8
Cropland (million acres)	10.93	10.79	11.53
Percent of total farmland	32.2	33.3	37.1
Percent in pasture	10.8	6.4	15.6
Harvested Cropland (million acres)	5.53	6.10	4.35
Percent irrigated	24.2	25.3	18.9
Woodland (million acres)	1.18	1.14	1.35
Percent of total farmland	3.5	3.5	4.3
Percent in pasture	79.1	56.7	73.9
Pastureland (million acres)	21.31	19.42	17.34
Percent of total farmland	62.7	60.0	55.8
Land in house lots, ponds, roads, wasteland, etc. (million acres)	0.55	1.01	0.88
Percent of total farmland	1.6	3.1	2.8
Conservation and organic practices			
Farmland in conservation or wetlands reserve programs (million acres)	1.33	1.57	1.74
Percent of total farmland	3.9	4.9	5.6
Certified organic farms, all commodities (number)	N/A	N/A	268
Value of all organic commodities sold (\$1,000's)	N/A	N/A	12,516
Certified organic farms, crops (number)	N/A	N/A	132
Land used to raise certified organic crops (acres)	N/A	N/A	19,428
Average farm size (acres)	1,252	1,071	991
Farms by size (percent)			
1 to 99 acres	35.9	40.8	43.8
100 to 499 acres	27.6	27.5	27.1
500 to 999 acres	11.7	10.3	9.6
1000 to 1,999 acres	10.1	8.9	7.9
2,000 or more acres	14.6	12.5	11.5
Farms by sales (percent)			
Less than \$9,999	44.2	50.7	60.4
\$10,000 to \$49,999	27.0	25.0	20.1
\$50,000 to \$99,999	10.6	8.6	6.9
\$100,000 to \$499,999	14.7	12.4	9.3
More than \$500,000	3.4	3.3	3.2
Tenure of farmers			
Full owner (farms)	14,707	18,121	20,809
Percent of total	54.2	60.0	66.3

Part owner (farms)	8,711	8,512	8,131
Percent of total	32.1	28.2	25.9
Tenant owner (farms)	3,734	3,564	2,429
Percent of total	13.8	11.8	7.7
Farm organization			
Individuals/family, sole proprietorship (farms)	22,359	25,023	27,280
Percent of total	82.3	82.9	87.0
Family-held corporations (farms)	1,417	1,752	1,458
Percent of total	5.2	5.8	4.6
Partnerships (farms)	2,890	2,892	2,109
Percent of total	10.6	9.6	6.7
Non-family corporations (farms)	232	208	171
Percent of total	0.9	0.7	0.5
Others - cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc. (farms)	254	322	351
Percent of total	0.9	1.1	1.1
Characteristics of principal farm operators			
Average operator age (years)	52.9	53.5	54.5
Percent with farming as their primary occupation	59.6	52.3	58.4
Men (persons)	24,654	26,449	26,152
Women (persons)	2,498	3,748	5,217
More information on farm characteristics			
• Census of Agriculture			
•Contact NASS Customer Service , 1-800-727-9540.			
Data from the 1992 Census of Agriculture is not adjusted for coverage. See Coverage Adjustment from NASS.			

Farm Financial Indicators

Farm income and value added data		
	2002	2003
Number of farms	31,400	31,400
	Thousands \$	
Final crop output	1,319,096	1,422,178
+ Final animal output	3,212,097	3,465,986
+ Services and forestry	684,836	674,312
= Final agricultural sector output	5,216,029	5,562,475
- Intermediate consumption outlays	3,497,512	3,499,785
+ Net government transactions	70,127	205,851
= Gross value added	1,788,644	2,268,541
- Capital consumption	380,482	379,588
= Net value added	1,408,162	1,888,953
- Factor payments	710,267	717,314

Employee compensation (total hired labor)	396,284	377,460
Net rent received by nonoperator landlords	43,666	66,306
Real estate and nonreal estate interest	270,317	273,548
= Net farm income	697,895	1,171,639
More information on farm income		
• Farm Income Data		
• Farm Income and Costs Briefing Room		
•Contact Roger Strickland , 202-694-5592.		

Farm balance sheet as of December 31

	2002	2003
	Thousands \$	
Farm assets	25,687,276	27,150,256
Real estate	20,175,926	21,350,165
Nonreal estate	5,511,350	5,800,091
Farm debt	4,039,197	4,143,010
Real estate	2,005,601	2,099,314
Nonreal estate	2,033,596	2,043,696
Equity	21,648,079	23,007,246
Ratios	Percent	
Debt/equity	18.7	18.0
Debt/assets	15.7	15.3

More information on farm balance sheets

- [Farm Balance Sheet data](#)
- [Farm Income and Costs Briefing Room](#)
- Contact [Jim Ryan](#), 202-694-5586.

Top Commodities, Exports, And Counties

Top 5 agriculture commodities, 2003

	Value of receipts thousand \$	Percent of state total farm receipts	Percent of US value
1. Cattle and calves	2,943,643	59.3	6.5
2. Dairy products	263,835	5.3	1.2
3. Greenhouse/nursery	243,838	4.9	1.6
4. Corn	239,333	4.8	1.3
5. Hogs	211,942	4.3	2.0
All commodities	4,964,312		2.3

More information on Colorado's top agriculture commodities

- [Leading commodities for cash receipts](#)
- Contact [Roger Strickland](#), 202-694-5592.

Top 5 agriculture exports, estimates, FY 2003

	Rank among states	Value million \$
1. Live Animals and Meat	5	311.4
2. Hides and Skins	4	129.5

3. Wheat and Products	14	120.2
4. Feed Grains and Products	14	81.9
5. Vegetables and Preparations	11	73.2

Overall rank	22	843.1
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More information on agricultural exports

- [State Export Data](#)
- [Agricultural Trade Briefing Room](#)
- Contact [Nora Brooks](#), 202-694-5211.

Top 5 counties in agricultural sales 2002

	Percent of state total receipts	Million \$
1. Weld County	24.9	1,127.9
2. Yuma County	12.0	542.7
3. Morgan County	9.9	448.0
4. Logan County	7.7	350.1
5. Kit Carson County	4.5	205.6

State total		4,525.2
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More information on agricultural sales

- [Census of Agriculture](#)
- Contact [NASS Customer Service](#), 1-800-727-9540.

Data Sources

- Local Area Unemployment Statistics, county data, [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).
- Regional Economic Information System, June 2004, [Bureau of Economic Analysis](#), U.S. Department of Commerce.
- 1990 and 2000 Census of Population, [Bureau of the Census](#), U.S. Department of Commerce.
- [Farm Income and Costs Briefing Room](#), Economic Research Service, USDA.
- [Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States](#) (FATUS), Economic Research Service, USDA.
- Census of Agriculture, [National Agricultural Statistics Service](#), USDA.

Prepared by Economic Research Service, USDA, Washington, DC.

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page updated: March 31, 2005

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